

## WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

(Letters addressed to Professor Massey must have stamp enclosed for answer.)

Thursday, April 16, 1914.

Tobacco Stems for Corn.



W. F. Massey.

Fluvanna County: "You are doing great things for the farmers by your letters in The Times-Dispatch. Tell me now how much ground to use an acre on a piece of land now in crimson clover, which I expect to plant in corn. Would you put the stems on the clover or after plowing. Please repeat the analysis." The best analysis of tobacco stems I have at hand is 2.35 per cent nitrogen (2.5 per cent ammonia), 8.20 per cent potash and 70 per cent phosphoric acid. A broadcast application, after turning under the clover, of 500 pounds an acre would be better than a good dressing of stable manure. Spread and harrow in before plowing the corn.

Spring Plowing. Albemarle County: "We of your old home county take a peculiar interest in the work you are doing for the farmers through The Times-Dispatch and other journals. May I therefore ask that you say something in explanation and warning about plowing dry soils wet? This is the season when most harm is done. It is very proper to call attention to this too common practice. Farmers are so often in a hurry to get the early spring crops in that they are apt to plow when the plow should be under the shed. There is no practice that makes more after trouble than plowing dry land when the furrows slip and shatter from the plow and fall to crumble. No amount of later harrowing will put in order a soil that has been turned wet. It will be cloudy all summer, and hence will part with its moisture rapidly, and crops will suffer from drought far worse than when the soil is plowed in the proper condition. The clouds let the air into the soil with its drying effect, and the plant roots cannot find on hard dry clods. It is more common to plow land wet when hurrying in the spring oats. All want to get these in early, and so they plow when the ground is too hard to make a furrow. There would not be so much harm done, for there will then be frost enough to mellow the clods. But in a season like this one, when the ground is so hard, it is better to wait until late, the wet plowing will put the soil into a condition that will take several seasons to fully remedy, and in the meantime there will be serious loss of crops. Do not be in too great a hurry for there will be reason enough to make the crop when the soil is properly prepared. Then in plowing, as I have said, do not allow the plowman to turn more furrow than the plow is intended to turn, but make the furrows and turn the moldboard side as deep as the land side. In short, break all the land a uniform depth and do not simply run grooves in the soil.

Richmond Route 1: "I would like to reply to the following in The Times-Dispatch. What is the name of the insect plant? It is in small plots in a field of timothy and sainfoin clover sowed last fall, and where this plant is thick the clover and timothy are weak or entirely killed. The field was in peas in 1913, corn last year, with 60 pounds of acid phosphate and fifty pounds of muriate of potash an acre. Corn put in silo, and 1,000 pounds of lime applied and 500 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of muriate of potash an acre. Fourteen quarts of timothy and sainfoin clover seed sown. A very fine stand, except the spots where the wood is. Last summer I sowed eight acres in peas and soy beans. Did not get them cut till October. I cut some and shocked them and left them four to five days in the shock. The remainder I winnowed, after laying out two days. Now, as near as I can gather from your articles, as soon as you could not winnow any out of them they were in order to put in the shock. So I stacked all the shocks in the field, and the end of the risk, and the others at the

other end, and now the ones that were shocked came out fairly good, but the others turned to ensilage and the dried out part full of mold, but the stems and peas were sound. I feel ten bellers on ensilage and those peas, and they did fine but I do not want to make the same mistake this year. In what did I do wrong? The weed seed, at first glance, I thought was chickweed that is bothering a great many this spring, but a second glance showed that it is not chickweed, and I cannot say positively what it is until I have a better specimen. I can tell you what it looks like, but do not care to make guesses, and if you will send me a plant in bloom I will tell you what it is. Send in a little box with some damp moss, and not in a letter, to me at Salisbury, Md.

In the meantime, you had better pull up the plants except a little one to show the bloom. Now as to the hay, I have never studied the best time to cut, and if I did, I would cover the stack with grass, hay or straw. You did not follow my method, from what I can see, now peas till noon, and keep the cutter running after the mower. Cutting in October means slower curing than in August. I rake into windrows the afternoon what is left in the morning. Next day I turn these windrows in the morning, and in the afternoon put the hay into shocks as narrow and tall as will stand, and then, when the cocks have cured to such where no sap can be seen running to a hard twist, it is ready to go in. But the cocks should stand longer in October weather than in hot weather, and there will be a great increase in the condition of the various growths of peas, for it grows rather thin on strong land, the stems will be stouter and will take longer to cure, and such hay must stand longer in the cocks. Then, if the ground is moist when the cocks are moved, there will be some external moisture at the bottom, and in hauling in it is better to send ahead of the wagon and turn the cocks over to dry off the bottom, for it is external moisture that does the damage. I have made cowpea hay for over thirty years in this way, and never made any cowpea hay for less than two days on the ground, which I never do.

Growing Cowpeas for Seed. Henrico County: "I take great interest in your letters in The Times-Dispatch and come now for some information in regard to growing peas for seed. My soil is a chocolate loam with red clay subsoil. I usually plant the peas in rows and cultivate them, using 200 pounds of acid phosphate and fifty pounds of muriate of potash an acre. What would you call a good yield on land that will make high crops of bushels of corn an acre, with peas fertilized as above, and rows three and one-half feet apart? In other words, what is the profitable? I am thinking of buying a Keystone harrow. What do you think of the machine? My idea is to grow peas and follow them with crimson clover, and hope that in that way to improve my land with manure and at same time make a little money. How would 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of muriate of potash do for corn and peas? Corn is knee high, and 100 pounds of nitrate of soda an acre? The land is very poor, and I want to get a catch of clover on it after corn is in the shock, and am obliged to put this land in corn.

On land of that character there is usually an inexhaustible amount of insoluble potash, which can be brought into use as the land gains in vegetable decay, and has an excellent effect, say once in six years. Your plan for planting the peas is all right, but instead of using 200 pounds of acid phosphate and fifty pounds of muriate of potash an acre, the harvester you will return all to the soil but the nitrates and will be increasing the organic matter of humus in the soil. But what kind of a crop you might expect on land of that character, I am unable to predict. It will depend both on the soil and on the variety of peas planted. The cowpeas are none of them heavy crops, and the crop will vary all the way from ten to twenty-five bushels, and the latter amount is not often exceeded. At present prices for the peas the crop should be a profitable one, when taking into consideration the improvement of the land from the vines and hulls returned to it. The harvester is all right, for I have followed it in the field and have seen its work. Now as to corn on that poor land, buying nitrogen for the corn crop is seldom profitable when compared with getting the nitrogen through a turned-under crop of crimson clover.

But in the first start of the improvement of poor land you will have to use some purchased nitrogen until you can get the clover. But on the corn I would use 400 pounds an acre of the acid phosphate and but twenty pounds of the muriate of potash, and after a few rounds of a good rotation and the getting of clover on the land, and after turning it under, applying 1,000 pounds of slaked lime an acre. I do not think that you will need to use any potash in your fertilizer, and no nitrate either, but only a liberal application of acid phosphate. The most successful wheat growers I know in Maryland buy no fertilizer but acid phosphate, and that for the corn depending on the clover and the farm manure for the corn.

\$26.75—New Orleans and Return—\$26.75 Via Southern Railway, April 20, 21, 22. Final limit, April 27. Timely, Hygienic Conference, April 19-25. This very low fare open to the public. Examination, reservations, etc., at Southern Railway Office, 507 East Main Street, phone Madison 272.

## LOUISA MERCHANT SHOT TO DEATH

Sheriff and Others Make Vain Search for Parties Guilty of Murder.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Louisville, Va., April 15.—Victor Hall, who owned and conducted a general merchandise store at Green Springs Station, was shot and killed there this morning about 4 o'clock by some unidentified party. Mr. Dunham, who also ran a store there, had his building and home destroyed by fire last night. All the neighbors joined in trying to get out the fire, but were unsuccessful, and the store and contents were burned.

After the fire was over Victor Hall went home to bed. He and his wife were aroused about 1 o'clock this morning by some one knocking on the door. Mr. Hall, taking a lamp in his hand, went down to the door, and on opening it, he was shot through the head. He died about 1 o'clock this morning without regaining consciousness. His wife stated that Hall hurried to the door on hearing a knock, saying he was uneasy about his father, who was complaining when they parted after the Dunham store fire.

Sheriff Robert Price, Commonwealth's Attorney W. C. Smith, Treasurer J. R. Wills, Dr. H. H. Cline, County Clerk R. B. Porter, James Hester, Charles Hester and others were among those from here who went on the 12 o'clock train this morning to Green Springs, but the majority of them returned at 12:30 o'clock, not having found out anything definite.

A negro was arrested near Trevitts because of suspicion of having been in the vicinity of the store at the time of the shooting. He is being held in the jail until he can be identified by the witnesses.

The trial attracted unusual attention. The prisoners were prosecuted by George D. Wills, a distinguished lawyer from the District of Columbia, who was formerly a member of Congress from the District of Columbia. He was assisted by Mitchell and his partner, who were formerly in the law office of the late Senator Charles Beck.

The case was so much like the murder reported yesterday that many prominent citizens, who formerly lived in Louisa, recalled it.

Like Old Crime in Louisa. The murder of Victor Hall in Louisa County recalled the fact yesterday that a similar crime was committed in that county about thirty years ago. The case was started by the news that Charles W. Walton, a merchant at Vandykeville, a town known today as Vandyke, had been murdered by a negro, who set fire to his home. The trial attracted unusual attention.

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TAKES HAT OFF IN ELEVATOR

Dr. Mary Walker Is True to Tradition of Her Masculine Attire.

Washington, April 15.—Dr. Mary Walker, true to the traditions of her high silk hat when she enters an elevator where women are present.

This example of manly courtesy was shown by Dr. Mary today when she rode up in the elevator of one of Washington's skyscrapers.

Woman Found Choked to Death.

Baton Rouge, La., April 15.—On her return from school this afternoon a nine-year-old colored girl found her mother Sarah Crum-chorned, later George Strother, choked to death. Later George Strother, colored, employed at a local garage, was arrested, charged with the murder of the woman. He declined to discuss the case.

A special arbitration treaty for the settlement of all disputes, except questions of national honor, expired in 1913, and administration officials have held that not even the treaty of 1818 is in force at present, because no government in Mexico has been recognized.

It, nevertheless, was believed in official circles to-night that General Huerta would persist in his attempt to intercept the question of arbitration into the situation, in spite of the fact that the American government had been informed that the American government would not consider arbitrating the question of the salute to the flag.

ARGUMENT IN DEBT CASE

Final Hearing Not Reached by United States Supreme Court.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Washington, April 15.—The final hearing to be given by the United States Supreme Court in the Virginia-West Virginia debt case was reached again to-day, but arguments will probably be heard to-morrow afternoon.

The case had been set for final argument on Monday, but was delayed because other cases in the argument had precedence on the calendar.

It will be argued by Ex-Archbishop General Anderson of Lexington, who has been here since Monday for Virginia, and by Attorney-General Lilly and John H. Holt, of West Virginia. Mr. Anderson will open the argument for Virginia, and will be followed by the West Virginians, and Mr. Holt will close for Virginia. Attorney-General Pollard will arrive to-morrow morning and be present, but will not take part in the argument.

O. H. M.

SPIDERS READY TO TACKLE TECHS

On Friday afternoon at Broad Street Park the Spiders will initiate their home team by tacking the Techs.

The Techs have been on the warpath lately, and as a result have collected a good many scraps. They have met V. M. L. Hamilton-Snyder and Randolph Mason, and have succeeded in defeating all of them. They are rather confident that they can trim the local outfit. On the other hand, the Spider team has not been letting the day slip in idleness. They have been practicing every afternoon, rain or shine, and are showing great improvement over their form at the start of the season.

Officers' Hearing Continued.

Patrolman R. D. Vane, of the Second District, was arraigned before the Board of Police Commissioners at a special meeting last night in the charge of being off his beat, but at his request his hearing was continued. The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday night.

AMUSEMENTS.

Academy—Howe's Travel Festival.

Giltoun—Grady Scott Company in "The Girl from the Golden West," matinee and night.

Lyric—Keith Vaudeville, matinee and night.

Colonial—Vaudeville.

Yiddish Players at Academy.

Before a small audience at the Academy of Music last night, Bernard Kessler and his Yiddish company appeared in "The Strayed Sheep," a comedy-drama built around the unpleasant theme that has served so many of the Yiddish players for the more sensational magazines.

As is customary with the less expensive Yiddish companies, the voice of the promoter was heard last night in the guise of a frequently used scene of the properties of the house were employed for setting the stage.

Howe's Travel Festival.

With the approaching completion of

the Panama Canal, the attention of the entire world is focused on this greatest engineering feat in history. Therefore, Edwin H. Howe has chosen wisely in making this the chief feature of his new program to be presented at the Academy to-night and Friday and Friday.

Ethel Barrymore.

Ethel Barrymore comes to the Academy of Music for two nights, beginning Monday, under Charles Frohman's direction, in a new comedy, "Tante," written by Mrs. Anne Douglas.

Founded on Mrs. Anne Douglas's novel of the same name. It is a comedy, however, that the play is in no sense an adaptation of the novel. Mr. Chambers having merely utilized the theme of Mrs. Sedgwick's book.

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